

West Lafayette Fire Department April 2011

National Level Exercise (NLE) and V.I.P. Day The events of 9-11 spurred the widespread utilization and development of regional (national) and district (state) emergency response deployments. To that end, planning has been going on for many months for a training exercise that will be held in southern Indiana the week of May 16th. WLFD is sending two firefighters and equipment as part of this exercise that is designed “to prepare and coordinate a multiple-jurisdictional integrated response to a national catastrophic event.” “NLE 2011 activities will take place at command posts, emergency operation centers and other locations to include federal facilities in the Washington D.C. area and federal, regional, state, tribal, local and private sector facilities in the eight member states of the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC).” (Quotes from FEMA.gov) Our two firefighters, and others within Indiana District 4, will be the primary firefighting force utilized for the hands-on element of this exercise.

On May 18th there will be a two hour V.I.P. and media session at the center of the activities here in Indiana. Expected are representatives from Washington D.C. and some of the national media. Local, including West Lafayette, elected officials and V.I.P. are invited. Anyone wanting to go can contact me to be put in touch with those responsible for reservations and credentialing.

Sarah Runs for Heroes This September 11th will mark the tenth anniversary of the World Trade Center terror attacks and plans are being made locally and nationwide to commemorate the tragic event and to try to bring some good out of it. Locally ideas are being discussed and committees have begun to be formed.

Sarah Schwartz is a 7th grade middle school student in Louisville who is partnering with Supporting Heroes and running 911 kilometers. As a 7th grader she is not old enough to remember the live 9-11 TV events. What she knows about 9-11 comes from what she is learning in school and from acting on her desire to help by running as a fundraiser.

Supporting Heroes is an organization that has directly assisted both WLFD and also other Tippecanoe County fire departments. Most notably, they were instrumental in the support provided when Steve Smith of the Wea Township FD died while fighting a house fire in 2006. Further information is available at www.SarahRunsForHeroes.org

Grand Prix Weekend In preparation for the Village Grand Prix crowds, Inspector Lancaster attended the regular monthly meeting of the Campus Community Bar Retail Coalition. In addition, in the evenings of the weekend before Grand Prix he visited several of the local businesses to remind the owners and management of the importance of not overcrowding the buildings. On Grand Prix weekend he again visited businesses in the evening to check for overcrowding. He reported that the crowds were adequately managed and that he did not observe any over-occupancy violations.

Chief Drew